FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 JANUARY 1985

Israel

Airlift of Ethiopian Jews — IDF and Jerusalem radios divulged details of Israel's airlift of thousands of Ethiopian Jews, noting that a secret airlift operation was begun about 3 months ago because of the famine conditions in Ethiopia and that the government and the Jewish Agency have taken measures to absorb the new immigrants. Further information on the operation was given at a press conference reported by Jerusalem radio in which government and Jewish Agency officials revealed that over 10,000 Ethiopian Jews have come to Israel, many of them suffering from African diseases and famine.

Lebanon

Objections by Walid Junblatt's side to the deployment of the Internal Security Forces in three positions specified by the security plan prevented the dispatch of an Internal Security Force to the Al-Kharrub region on 3 January, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Efforts to resolve the problem through a liaison committee proved unsuccessful through 4 January, according to Voice of Lebanon. In a related report, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio noted that each party was blaming the other for the "new obstacles," preventing the implementation of the first stage of the coastal road security plan.

Meanwhile, the cease-fire collapsed in the Mountain area, according to the Voice of Lebanon, which blamed Junblatt's forces for the renewed shelling. In Beirut, gunmen kidnapped the Swiss charge d'affaires, the radio disclosed. In another development, the radio reported that roads between East and West Beirut were reopened after being closed for 6 days by relatives of kidnapped persons.

As for Israel's position on Lebanon, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks broadcast by IDF radio that Israel will have to find a solution which will not necessarily provide a "good answer" to Israel's goals of "reasonable" security and bringing the IDF back home. Speaking to IDF officers in Lebanon, he affirmed that Israel should strive to attain a solution by the end of 1985.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan's King Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Amman on 3 January for talks on joint Jordanian-Palestinian action, Amman radio reported. Meanwhile, in a London magazine interview cited by KUNA, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih expressed his willingness to travel to Damascus for talks to settle differences with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Nevertheless, the new PNC speaker stressed that there is "no alternative" to 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO.

In a separate development, the Jordanian interior minister began talks with his Egyptian counterpart in Cairo on bilateral cooperation in security and police affairs, according to MENA.

Iraq

Three criminals responsible for planting a bomb in Baghdad last month have admitted in confessions broadcast by Baghdad television that they were acting upon the instructions of the Iranian authorities and in coordination with Syrian intelligence, INA reported.

Iran

Commenting on the possibility that Iran may close the Strait of Hormuz, Tehran radio's Arabic service stressed that Iran will only take such a step if it is unable to export its oil, at which point it will close the Strait "without hesitation," converting the Gulf waters into "fires that will burn everything." As for the Iraqi air attacks on shipping, the radio contended that the "Ba'thist air bats" can no longer distinguish between ships loaded with Iranian oil and those loaded with oil from other Gulf countries.

Pakistan-Afghanistan

A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman cited by Karachi radio dismissed the DRA's "baseless allegations" that the Pakistani Armed Forces shelled Afghanistan's Barikowt region between 24-29 December, noting that Pakistan has informed the DRA charge d'affaires in Islamabad that his government should refrain from leveling such "fabricated" charges. The spokesman pointed out that the Pakistani Armed Forces have been given strict orders to refrain from any type of violation against Afghanistan.

Western Sahara

The SDAR claimed further successes against Moroccan forces, asserting that Polisario troops killed 250 Moroccans in a 1 January attack in the Mahbes region, Algiers radio reported.

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Karmal Sends Message on Death of Cambodia's Chan Si

LD0406 25 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Kabul, January, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers have sent a condolence message addressed to Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and president of the State Council of Kampuchea on the untimely death of Chan Si, member of Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

They expressed the deep sorrow of their own, the PDPA CC, the Revolutionary Council, the Government and the people of Afghanistan on the death of Chan Si and praised his contribution towards raising the standard of living of the Kampucheans and his struggles against the conspiracies of imperialism and international reaction.

Prime Minister Interviewed by Bulgarian Paper

AU031618 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 31 Dec pp 1, 6

[Text] The Constituent Congress of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] was held on 1 January 1965. Throughout the last 20 years this party established and asserted itself as a vanguard of the working people. The April revolution in 1978 was accomplished under its leadership, and the Afghan people today are building the foundations of their new society under the leadership of this party, despite the difficulties and the undeclared war waged againsnt them by imperialism. The anniversary of this party will be solemnly celebrated throughout the country and in Kabul throughout the forthcoming days; the achievements of the past will be analyzed, while the forthcoming tasks will be mapped out.

On the eve of the anniversary, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA Central Committee and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, received Volodya Stratiev, *RABOTNICHESKO DELO*'s special correspondent in Kaubl and was kind enough to answer his following questions:

[Stratiev]: Comrade Keshtmand, what have been the results of the PDPA activities throughout the last 20 years and how would you define the basic tasks which the party and government have now assigned themselves in the field of party organization, as well as in the various sectors of building a new society?

[Keshtmand]: The PDPA was established on 1 January 1965, under difficult circumstances. On this day 20 years ago, the underground Constituent Congress elected the party leadership and defined its basic goals and tasks. The PDPA program was further published, which played a tremendous role for the political consciousness of the masses and was transformed into a basic document for the activities of the party.

The intensification of the working people's struggle was the direct result of the establishment of the party. Throughout the years preceeding the April revolution over 2,000 various actions and operations were accomplished under PDPA leadership. At the same time, our party expanded an active struggle, and this was a decisive factor in overthrowing the monarchy in 1973.

One of the important political results of PDPA activities in that period was the fact that it rallied not only the working people, but almost all progressive strata of society and became an influential political factor, thus reducing the influence of the small bourgeois parties to a minimum. At the same time, the PDPA educated its own cadres and supporters in the spirit of patriotism and internationalism, in a spirit of fraternity with the socialist countries, in a spirit of friendship and cooperation with the great Soviet Union.

The implementation of a series of measures aimed at progressive changes in society began. Unfortunately, however, as a result of different trends emerging within the party, a difficult situation was created. As a result of shortcomings, the revolution was facing an immediate threat from imperialism. The independence and territorial integrity of our country were in danger — the West organized counterrevolutionary gangs based in Pakistan and within our country, and intensified its aggressive actions near Afghanistan's borders.

Under these circumstances the vital necessity of a radical change emerged. This is why the second stage of the April revolution was accomplished in 1979. This led to a drastic change in the party's activities, as well as in our work with the masses, contributing to an increase of the opportunities to resist imperialist aggression, which was led and financed by the United States. We are grateful to the fraternal Soviet Union for the comprehensive assistance, including the military support accorded to Afghanistan in this extremely difficult situation.

Which are the main tasks facing us today? They are, above all, the basic tasks of liquidating counterrevolution and stopping the undeclared war of the West against us. This, of course, will help us to accomplish our other important task — to raise the economic standards of our country's development and to improve the people's life. Thus, a normalization of the situation is extremely necessary not only from a political, but also from a socioeconomic point of view. It is our duty to restore what has been destroyed by the counterrevolution and to exceed the 1978 level of development. This demands that we work at the same time in different sectors — to consolidate defense, to extend ideological and propaganda work, as well as to implement a series of economic measures. Our final goal at this stage is to build a new democratic society so that we may achieve our revolutionary ideal — the construction of socialism — in the long run.

In building a new society, the experience of socialist construction in the People's Republic of Bulgaria is very useful to us. This country, which was backward in the past, has been transformed into a developed socialist state. We highly appreciate the comprehensive experience of the Soviet Union, especially its practical experience in building socialism in the Central Asian republics.

[Stratiev]: How would you describe the basic positive and negative international factors exerting an impact upon the development of Afghanistan at the present stage of development?

[Keshtmand]: I will begin with the negative ones — above all with the undeclared war which imperialism is waging against our country today. The United States and its allies are supplying weapons and sending coutnerrevolutionary gangs against us, above all from the territory of Pakistan. I would like to stress that these gangs not only cause great damage to our country's economy, but are killing, burning, and destroying everything, and are using all means to try to prevent the people from carrying out their peaceful work.

Without this undeclared war our difficulties would be considerably reduced and our socioeconomic successes would be considerably greater. The undeclared war waged by the West is not only of military but also of economic significance. The West is actually imposing an economic blockade upon us. Where in the past minimum credits were granted by some developed, capitalist countries and international funds, this has been deliberately stopped today.

As to the positive factors, one of them is, above all, the tremendous, irreplacable and comprehensive assistance of the Soviet Union and of the other socialist countries. The importance of this assistance for our revolution and for our country is exceptional. For the current year, for example, 92 percent of all credits have been granted to us by CEMA, and 72 percent of them have been granted by the USSR.

We can hardly enumerate everything we receive from the USSR and the socialist countries — this assistance is great and extends to all sectors of life. The great international assistance which all progressive forces in the world accord to us also represents a factor of great importance.

[Stratiev]: Comrade Keshtmand, how do you evaluate the development of relations between the BCP and the PDPA, as well as between Bulgaria and Afghanistan?

[Keshtmand]: The development of relations between our two countries is of exceptionally great importance. The People's Republic of Buglaria is according not only moral and political, but also economic assistance to us. Our people and the members of our party have the most cordial feelings for the Buglarian people and for the Bulgarian Communists.

All conditions have been created, at the highest level, for the development of comprehensive cooperation between our two parties and countries. This cooperation is expressed in a series of specific documents, agreements, protocols, and so forth. The visit paid by Comrade Babrak Karmal to Sofia in 1981 and his talks with Comrade Todor Zhivkov opened a new page in the history of our mutual relations. This visit mapped out new prospects of development, of expanding and intensifying our cooperation.

We are very glad that, on the Bulgarian side, full understanding was manifested and readiness for the development of our relations was expressed. I must stress on this occasion that on most questions, including international issues, we share the same stands. This is logical, since we are members of one great family built upon the glorious principles of proletarian internationalism, based on friendship with our common friend and ally — the Soviet Union.

'Azad Addresses Provincial Defense Group

LD032214 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] Three hundred workers of Charso and Kaftari villages of Nezam-e Shahid district, Herat Province, have been organized into a revolution defense group of these villages and have received weapons.

After a speech at this ceremony by Abdol Qafar 'Azad, member of the PDPA Central Committee and secretary of the Herat provincial party committee, on the importance of creating revolution defense groups, Arbab Gol Mohammad, commander of the Revolution Defense Group, spoke on behalf of its members. He declared readiness to continue the fight and to struggle to the end for restoring a peaceful life for the working people of these villages and defense of the homeland and the revolution.

Pakistan Warned Against Further Aggression

LD032136 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] At a time when the military ruler of Islamabad, General Ziaul Haq, is freshly relieved from his ridiculous and laughable referendum and thinks he has given a gift to over 70 million Pakistanis, a fresh wave of beatings, arrests, and bloodshed has begun in Pakistan, as well as a shameful drama of strangulation and suppression.

While the Reagan administration has begun a crusade against progress and is sending supplies from across the ocean to the general to meet his need for military equipment, the people of Pakistan and of the neighboring countries are denouncing this bloodshed, the beatings and the rearrest of political leaders, and the insults against the toiling nation of Pakistan. All this is taking place at a time when the conspiracies of General Ziaul Haq have been foiled and will be foiled in revolutionary Afghanistan, as well as in the fraternal country of India by the glorious victory of Rajiv Gandhi in the recent election.

As a result of all these efforts and despite the fact that the black reaction — Pakistan's CIA in the body of the U.S. CIA — the militarists of Pakistan have failed to implement their wicked and separatist conspiracies in Asam, Punjab, Jammu, and Kashmir.

As we know, the militarists of Pakistan have been armed to the teeth with imperialist weapons by Washington for no reason other than the pretext that Pakistan is allegedly confronted by an external threat.

We ask: Which external danger is threatening Pak'stan? Which country has been transformed into a springboard of aggression in the undeclared war against the DRA, and which country's forces fire heavy and long-range weapons from beyond the borders into the territory of our country?

Undoubtedly these are the military forces of Pakistan who time and again have carried out armed aggressions from the other side

of the border into our country, including into Barikowt region and Konarha Province; as a result of the recent aggression a number of our soldiers and civilians were martyred.

What is clear and obvious is that the militarists of Pakistan not only do not observe the principle of goodneighborliness but trample on it by such aggressions. It was because of this that the charge d'affaires in Pakistan's embassy was summoned to the First Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a strong memorandum from Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry on the repeated aggression by Pakistan's artillery forces was handed over to him.

The Pakistani authorities were firmly told by Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry that the continuation of this aggression will have most unfortunate consequences, the responsibility for which will be borne by the Pakistani authorities. These are all General Zia's actions, and the consequences of these aggressive and adventurist actions will be directed against the Pakistani Government, which has been [word indistinct] by the Reagan administration and by reaction in the region. These aggressions can have no other explanation except hostility and a desire to maintain tension.

According to the Pashtun proverb: A twisted mouth can be straightened by a blow with a fist.

Gandhi Interviewed on Arms Buildup, Elections

BK040922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed concern over the arms buildup in the Indian Ocean and our neighborhood. This, he said, had a destabilizing effect in the region. In an interview to Bulgarian television in New Delhi, Mr Gandhi said a lot of arms are being supplied to our neighbors much beyond their normal needs, about which we are not happy. We also want the Indian Ocean to be nuclear free.

About India's role in world affairs, the prime minister pointed out that it will be our endeavor to reduce areas of confrontation and strive for disarmament. India could certainly have a calming influence in today's tension-ridden world.

Asked to comment on the attempts to whip up communal disturbances by activating caste differences, the prime minister contended such machinations would not work. He said the Indian people had shown tremendous resilience against odds and would not permit the country's disintegration. Mr Gandhi expressed confidence that the masses would ensure that the country remains strong and that the forces of disunity were effectively tackled and overcome.

When asked how he felt about the unprecendented mandate that the people had given him in the Lok Sabha elections, the prime minister said while it had given him confidence in governing the affairs of the state, it had also bestowed on him great responsibility. Asked to elaborate on what kind of a new approach he proposed, Mr Gandhi said we are trying to get things to move faster and more efficiently. He pointed out that he had already started looking into the functioning of the ministries and government offices. Efforts are underway to streamline the procedures.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that he had attached the utmost importance to education. He disclosed that a group constituted by him had been studying the entire educational system for providing a new thrust.

On India-Bulgarian ties, Mr Gandhi said we have very close links and these must by strengthened through mutually beneficial cooperation.

Official Spokesman on Bangladesh Border Incident

BK031527 ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1452 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] In response to the reports which appeared in the newspapers on January 3 1985 the official spokesman made the following remarks:

At a place near Shikarpur in Krishnanagar District some Bangladesh nationals cutting grass on the Indian side were apprehended by local police. The Bangladeshi villagers then attacked the head constable, but as they were dragging him all across the border they were stopped by villagers. Thereupon the Bangladesh Rifles took recourse to some unprovoked firing. In this scuffle the head constable was injured. A flag meeting has been called and is expected to be held shortly.

Ministerial Commission To Examine Punjab Problem

BK031241 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] A high-level ministerial commission has been constituted to go into the Punjab problem. The committee consists of the Home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan; the Defense minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao; and the Education minister, Mr K.C. Pant. The committee will study the existing situation in Punjab, taking into account the suggestions made by a cross section of the people.

Clashes in Uttar Pradesh Claim 18 Lives

BK031557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, 18 persons were killed last night in Mahadupur village of Sitapur District in a clash between two groups of people of the same community. An official spokesman told the All-India Radio Lucknow correspondent that 14 of them were killed when the house they were living in was set on fire. The spokesman added that more persons were suspected trapped in the debris. Old enmity is stated to be the reason behind the killing.

Hegde To Head Caretaker Government in Karnataka

BK031620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Karnataka chief minister, Mr Ramkrishna Hegde, has agreed to head the caretaker government in the state till the assembly elections are held. He had submitted the resignation of his 2-year old Janata government soon after the Lok Sabha election results were announced. Talking to newsmen in Bangalore today, he said he has agreed to continue as chief minister at the suggestion of the governor, Mr A.N. Banerjee.

Air Force Acquires Domestically-Built MIG-27M

BK311411 Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Nasik, Dec. 14 — The first MIG 27-M aircraft assembled by the State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) here roared into the sky in a flying demonstration today marking a milestone in military aircraft assemblage.

The aircraft was formally handed over to Air Chief Marshal L.K. Katre, Chief of Air Staff, by the HAL Chairman, Air Marshal M.S.D. Wollen (retd.) at a function at the Ojhar air base after Wg. Cdr. V.A. Joshi, senior test pilot of HAL'S Nasik Division, took it through its paces for the benefit of senior IAF [Indian Air Force] officials from Air Headquarters and MiG squadrons.

The MIG 27-M, a swing-wing aircraft, designed for the tactical-strike and close support roles, possesses high performance char-

acteristics in terms of weapon-load, fire-power and radius of action for the ground-attack missions.

The aircraft is being produced by HAL, under licence agreement with the Soviet Union.

Air Chief Marshal Katre described the event as a breakthrough in the acquisition of sophisticated aircraft production technology.

"The event, marking a switch-over to the new generation aircraft also constitutes a tribute to the skills, high technical competence and maturity of the employees who have successfully mastered the technology involved in three different MIG-21 variants," he said.

Air Marshal Wollen said that with advanced capabilities, backed by the modernisation programme, the MIG complex factories stand fully prepared to provide the best and the most reliable weapon system to the IAF.

THE STATESMAN on Pakistani Referendum 'Farce'
BK311031 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English
22 Dec 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Defender of the Faith"]

[Text] Nothing could have been more predictable than the outcome of the farce that has just been enacted in Pakistan. If any aspect of the official announcement occasions surprise, it is that the turn-out is pegged at a mere 64 per cent. However, General Ziaul Haq makes handsome amends by claiming more than 98 percent of the votes cast. Lest anyone should think his hold is slipping, it was also let known that the polls had to be kept open for an extra 90 minutes to accommodate the rush of voters anxious to rally to a leader who sees himself, like the British monarch, as Defender of the Faith. It was no less expected that heretics in the Movment for the Restoration of Democracy would dismissively place the turn-out at under five percent and accuse the Government of rigging "on a vast scale". The testimony of independent journalists who found polling stations in and around Islamabad almost deserted. The police attack on an Opposition meeting in Lahore that was, by definition, seditious, Miss Bhutto's shrill and subversive denunciation from London, and General Zia's smug promise to go ahead with his plans for Islamic democracy must be treated as attendant rituals of a masquerade that proves nothing except the General's determination to exploit religion for political gain.

The two have not been so closely identified in the Islamic world since the fall of the ottoman Caliphate. The parallel with Ayatollah Khomeyni bigoted regime is less apposite for the clergy does rule Iran; Teheran's political and administrative apparatus is constitutionally subordinate to an all-powerful imam whose belief in his own messianic role is not in doubt. But in spite of the ingenious wording of the referendum question or General Zia's frequent pious protestations, no one in Pakistan can possibly regard him as the true embodiment of theocratic values. Even his fundamentalism, such as it is, seems to spring more from calculation than conviction. Hence the analogy with imperial Turkey where the substance of temporal power was all the stronger because the hereditary emperor was also the Shadow of God on Earth. Nor may the comparison be displeasing in a country whose martial law administrators seem to play discreet footsy with monarchy. According to Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Field Marshal Ayub Khan was more than ready to mount a throne and found a royal dynasty; more recently, General Zia's constitutional commission apparently recommended that he proclaim himself Ameer. Such a modestly secular title may seem inadequate in view of the lofty mandate he claims to have won in the name of religion; it would be far more gratifying for Pakistan's military ruler henceforth to be known as caliph of Islamabad.

Kabul Charge of Firing 'Totally Baseless'

BK031533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] Pakistan has described as totally baseless Kabul's allegations that the Pakistani Armed Forces fired across the border on Barikowt during 24-29 December, wounding 11 soldiers and 8 civilians and damaging property.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that the Afghan charge d'affaires, who was apprised of Pakistan's refutation in Islamabad this morning, has been asked to tell the Kabul regime to refrain from leveling such fabricated charges. The spokesman said that the Pakistani Armed Forces have been given strict orders that they should refrain from any type of violation of Afghanistan. The spokesman said that frequent repetition of such baseless allegations on the part of the Kabul regime will only increase tension at the border to the detriment of peace and security in the region.

Defense Secretary Meets PRC Army Official

BK030655 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] The deputy chief of the general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, General He Zhengwen, met with the secretary general for defense Major General M. Rahim Khan, retired. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and exchanged gifts on the occasion. The members of the Chinese delegation also visited the Tarbela Dam.

People's Party Leader on State of Nation

GF301256 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 28 Dec 84 Magazine Supplement p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Pakistani People's Party leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi in Lahore by staff editors Tariq Ismail, Saeed Asy, and Bedar Sarmadi — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Tariq Ismail] Mr Jatoi, we welcome you to the offices of *NAWA-E WAQT*. What is your opinion on the conditions in the country and what are your solutions for the problems facing the country now and in the future?

[Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi] I am very grateful that you have arranged this interview on behalf of *NAWA-E WAQT*. The problems are so numerous that I do not know where to begin. It would be better if you were to question me on the more immediate problems first. The fact is that our hearts are burning. It is a long story. The greatest problem is that of the country's security and safety — we are facing such problems that I feel ashamed even to mention them. But if we do not broach the subject of the dangers facing the country, how will they be resolved?

[Ismail] In view of the conditions prevailing in the country and the government's measures in this direction, I would like to ask you whether you would accept any offer by the government?

[Jatoi] Never. At least not until the government accepts the four points of the MRD.

[Ismail] Would you participate in partyless elections?

[Jatoi] Absolutely not. We are the ones campaigning against such elections and boycotting them.

[Ismail] Are you in contact with the other parties outside the MRD in this connection?

[Jatoi] Of course. This is a political activity, not a personal vendetta against anyone.

[Bedar Sarmadi] Mr Jatoi, suppose the government holds partyless elections and, despite your boycott, candidates are elected and a system is set up. What will your policy be in this connection?

[Jatoi] Whatever the nature of the elections, there will be candidates. No one refuses free goods. But such free sweets cannot be digested easily. In the last municipal elections in Sind, some candidates were successful even after receiving only two votes. If the nation considers people receiving 2 or 15 votes as their representatives, and such elections as true elections, then God help that nation! Therefore, I think that if the government holds such elections, they will be quite meaningless and no one will be willing to accept such elections. History is before you. During our tenure of government, when the Pakistani National Awami Party had boycotted the elections, we could not establish a government even when thousands of votes were cast, because the government did not enjoy the support of the people.

[Saeed Asy] Mr Jatoi, do you suppose the government would use the MRD boycott as an excuse to postpone the elections?

[Jatoi] I think that there is a 60 percent chance of this; that is, the government will try to postpone the elections. It has happened twice before and it is possible again. Any pretext can be used.

[Asy] But if the government postpones the elections once again, then what will be the position of the politicians?

[Jatoi] We have already started our campaign. I cannot speak on behalf of the MRD. But on behalf of my party, our struggle will continue.

[Sarmadi] In view of the events taking place on our borders, the dangers around us and Reagan's reelection, do you think that the present government will become weak because of a lack of support from the people? Despite not having the full support of the people, the government has lasted 7 years. Couldn't it last a little more under such circumstances?

[Jatoi] If the government feels it can continue on the basis of foreign support, then the fault lies with us. I am certain that conditions will arise which will make the prolongation of the government impossible.

[Ismail] Mr Jatoi, the elections in 1962 were also held on a nonparty basis, and you participated in these. The members of the 1962 assembly are today's politicians. So, since you participated in the 1962 elections, why do you then hesitate to take part in them now?

[Jatoi] I have said before that the main issue is not of party or partyless polls. If this were the only problem then I would have been ready to discuss this with my party once again. The fact is that the 12 August formula is a step toward perpetuating the present government. How can we have an election on this basis? With regard to the 1962 elections, if Ayub Khan had presented a formula for the perpetuation of his regime, there would have been a boycott even then. They were simple partyless polls and we participated. I think that the government has been forced to announce the 12 August formula, otherwise President Zia does not need any elections.

[Asy] If conditions remain as they are, that is, if the government says that the door is open to negotiations and the politicians adhere to their stance, how can there be a compromise?

[Jatoi] Our doors are open as well. The government should accept our four points.

[Asy] The question is how will the impasse be resolved?

[Jatoi] It is simple: They open their doors and we open ours.

[Asy] This will only increase the differences.

[Jatoi] We cannot compromise on principles. My basic stance is that we believe in the power of the people.

[Ismail] Could you throw some light on conditions in Sind? How true are the slogans for "Sindhu Desh" that we have heard?

[Jatoi] This "Jiye Sind" movement [for the autonomy of Sind Province] is as old as Pakistan itself. The Sindhis had always felt ignored in service and business, and now they feel left out of the assemblies and that the bureaucracy is sucking their blood. Bribery has reached massive proportions and nothing can be done without money. There seems to be no chastisement for malpractices. In such conditions the people become pessimistic and the secessionist elements instigate them saying that the Sindhis have no future here, just as we told you earlier.

[Ismail] Mr Jatoi, your leadership is mostly abroad. Do you have any contact with them?

[Jatoi] Yes, sometimes.

[Ismail] Do they plan to return to the country or do they plan to work there?

[Question unanswered]

[Asy] The question of provincial autonomy was decided in the 1973 Constitution. Is this question being revived?

[Jatoi] More must be given to the provinces, but these things have to be discussed.

[Sarmadi] The 1973 Constitution was formulated in your time.

[Jatoi] It was, but it is not a divine testament that cannot be changed or amended. It should be done, however, by an elected assembly.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Rules Out Forming Caretaker Government

BK040352 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The Bangladesh president, General Ershad, has ruled out the possibility of forming a caretaker government before the promised polls in April.

Addressing a public meeting at Raniganj near Dhaka he said he will hand over power only to democratically elected government. President Ershad held the opposition parties responsible for the postponement of elections twice in the past.

SRI LANKA

Finance Minister on Terrorism, Election

BK311127 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] The minister of finance and planning, Ronnie de Mel, has stated that the country will never be divided by any force or foreign organization as long as the present government is in power. Speaking at Ja-ela yesterday, the minister further said that terrorism had become an international menace.

Reflecting on the events of 1984, Mr de Mel said that Sri Lanka had had to face several problems. He added that the new year will be a decisive one.

The finance minister cautioned that if there was no political solution to the current problems in the country, development could be hampered. He said that there could come a time in the future where we would not be able to obtain foreign assistance. He therefore stated that a correct assessment should be made of foreign influences and on the spread of the terrorist movement and solutions found to the current crisis.

The minister noted that we should refrain from unnecessary criticism at a time like this.

In a reply to those who have asked for an election, the minister asked how a general election could be held in a situation where there is no law and order.

Security Forces Arrest 51 'Terrorists'

BK040152 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Sri Lankan security forces were able to arrest 51 terrorists in Eravur, Batticaloa District, on Wednesday [2 Jan]. Commenting on this operation, National Security Minister Lalith Athulath mudali told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation this morning that the arrests are being carried out systematically.

Ministry of Plan, Budget Approved by Majlis

LD031409 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA — In the open session of the Majlis here this morning presided over by Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the bill on turning the Plan and Budget Organisation into the Ministry of Plan and Budget was approved. According to the bill the post of the head of the Plan and Budget Organisation will become a ministerial position.

Furthermore, according to the bill, all responsibilities of the head of the organisation will be delegated to the minister of the plan and budget.

In the forthcoming sessions of the Majlis, a bill concerning turning the Welfare Organisation into the Ministry of Welfare will be discussed.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,961

LD031606 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA — Iranian and Iraqi troops exchanged fire across the northwestern fronts Wednesday, said the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces in its communique number 1961 Thursday.

Muslim combatants of Iran also defended their positions and set fire to parts of the Iraqi fortifications in the Piranshahr, Haj 'Umran, Sardasht and Panjwin areas, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers, and destroying one mortar launcher and a vehicle. In the Shuman Mustafa area, enemy's supply efforts were paralyzed.

In the western fronts, Muslim combatants continued their defense tactics.

In the southern fronts, a considerable number of enemy soldiers were killed when Iranian forces poured fire on their supply routes, artillery units and concentrations. The Muslim combatants also interrupted engineering and supply activities of the enemy and destroyed a number of their group bunkers and one mortar launcher. The cross fire in southern front was reported heaviest in the Hoseyniyeh and Zayd areas.

In the Eynkhosh and Chazzabeh areas, the Iranian defenders spotted enemy patrol units and forced them back with heavy casualties.

The city of Abadan was under Iraqi bombardment Wednesday, in which seven houses and shops were destroyed.

Official Comments on Mobilization Force Readiness

LD032207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, the official responsible for the Mobilization of the Oppressed People, today gave an interview to an IRNA correspondent in Mashhad.

Commenting on the activities of this popular force, he said: The number of trained forces of the Mobilization of the Oppressed People exceeds 3 million. In addition to having established nearly 10,000 rural and urban resistance bases, the Mobilization forces have also set up 50 rescue and relief work teams. They are currently being trained and will, in cases of emergency, help the hezbollah ummah throughout the country. He then added: In line with the Labeyk Ya Khomeyni plan, the Mobilization forces have classified 600,000 people who have been to the battlefronts and, in accordance with their expertise, allocated them special codes. Considering their expertise gained on the battlefields, this force will, if necessary, be deployed.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani then alluded to resistance bases in mosques. He said that these bases will be expanded, both qualitatively and quantitatively, and, because they enjoy more cohesion than before, they will attempt to use them to help fortify the 20-million-strong army.

Commenting on his visit to the battlefronts, he said that the morale of the forces in the battlefronts of the imposed war is good. Considering the actions which we will be taking in the not too distant future, these forces enjoy the necessary readiness.

Tehran Comments on Iraqi Attacks on Tankers

GF031943 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Jan 84

[From "Political Followups" commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, during the past year the Ba'thist fighters have continued to tamper with sea freight traffic in the Gulf waters. On one occasion they strafed an oil freighter,and on another occasion they hit commercial ships. The point worth noting is that the Ba'thist air bats can no longer distinguish between ships and tankers loaded with oil from the Islamic port on Khark Island, and the tankers and ships loaded with crude oil from the other Gulf countries. This clearly means that the Ba'thist behavior, particularly in the past few months, is designed to escalate the military situation with the approval of the masters and lackeys in the region as well as expand the scope of the aggressive war imposed on the Muslims in the region.

If we want to find the causes of the Iraqi aggression againstthe sea freight traffic we conclude the following:

First: Creating an atmosphere of confusion and chaos in the sea freight traffic and trade from and to the region so that the rates of freight and insurance paid on ships in the Gulf waters will rise. This will be beneficial to the insurance companies that are located in the countries of the masters. This, moreover, provides a pretext to the monopolist oil companies to raise oil prices for consumers in Third World countries. It seems that Saddam wants these companies to benefit when the planes destroy these ships and when the campanies of the masters get new tankers after receiving indemnities for the old ships.

Second: Attempting to obstruct the export of oil from Islamic Iran and deprive it of the hard currency it needs at this stage of a war that has been imposed on Iran. The Baghdad rulers claim

they are doing this so that Iran will join them for capitualatory negotiations. Incidents prove contrary to this. They want to tighten the noose of the economic siege and totally ruin the Islamic revolution.

Third: Embezzling the Gulf regimes -- where some failed to pay the expenses of the aggressive war and the expenses of the caprices and frivolity of Saddam -- by throwing their oil exports into confusion. This demonstrates the inconstancy of the Ba'thist position toward countries it claims to defend.

Fourth: Pressuring the countries that purchase oil from Islamic Iran to send their oil to other agent countries known to be loyal to the United States, so that new revenue will pour into the Western economy and thus be added to the heaps of banknotes which the countries that own these resources were deprived of. This is contrary to what takes place in Iran, where the oil revenues are spent in toto for the prosperity and happiness of the Muslims. Moreoever, this money is invested in construction, development, industrial, and agricultural projects.

Fifth: Driving Iran to undertake a preemptive measure or even the surprise step of closing the Strait of Hormuz. At this point the superpowers will be interfering directly in the aggressive war. Saddam thinks that this interference will rescue him from the quagmire of Al-Qadisiyah.

Islamic Iran will not undertake such a step unless it believes that it is being denied the ability to export its oil.At this point the Islamic forces will close the Strait of Hormuz without hesitation. A few suicidal Muslims blew up positions belonging to the Americans and the French in Lebanon and defeated these two countries; in Islamic Iran there are hundreds of thousands of such heroes. All the Gulf waters will then be converted into fires that will burn everything, including the tyranny of those who threaten to open the Strait while they are on the other side of the sphere. They will also lose the Middle Eastern oil once and for all. The West realizes this very well. Saddam's role is only limited to the occasional attainment of the aforementioned four points. As for the last point, it is the only and the final medicine. The Muslims will lie in wait for them. God is capable of supporting us.

Afghan Rebels Launch Attacks in Golran, Kharazm

LD031415 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] During the past few days, the two regions of the Golran and Kharazm district offices in Afghanistan witnessed attacks launched by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries on the bases of the Soviet forces and the Karmal regime. According to a report received in the course of these attacks, several tanks and APCs of the occupation forces and the Afghan Government were destroyed, and 37 of their troops killed.

Afghan Muslim Rebels Attack Soviet-Karmal Forces

LD040954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] According to reports received from Qandahar, as a result of a missile attack by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries on a military column of the joint Soviet-Karmal regime forces in the Lowy Kariz region, six occupation troops of the Soviet Army and those of the Karmal forces were killed, and two of their tanks destroyed. According to the same report, during these operations four soldiers of the Karmal army were captured together with their arms and ammunition.

Clandestine: Revolution Guards Flee to Turkey

GF040730 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] It has been reported that 30 members of the Revolution Guards Corps have fled to Turkey and have asked for political asylum from the government in Ankara. According to a Radio Nejat-e Iran correspondent in Turkey, who quoted passengers arriving from the Turkish province of Istanbul, 30 Revolution Guards from Tabriz recently crossed into Turkey at Kurbolag with all their arms and equipment. These persons are under investigation by Turkish officials at Dogubayzit, the capital of Turkish Kordestan Province.

According to a Turkish police official, in the past 2 months they have been trying to assure Iranian armed border personnel on the subject. Earlier, Revolution Guards were arriving alone or in pairs seeking refuge in Turkey. However, in the past few weeks the Revolution Guards of the Tehran regime have been deserting Iran in groups.

The Radio Nejat-e Iran correspondent yesterday added that some 2 weeks ago 15 Iranian armed Revolution Guards crossed into Greece from Turkey and asked for political asylum from the government in Athens.

Clandestine: Antiregime Demonstrations in Tehran

TA032031 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The Protest Demonstrations by Our Homeland's People Against the Bloody Islamic Government"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Despite the futile attempts by the bloody Islamic government and the repressive measures aimed at stifling the voice of protest of the free Iranian people, who are fed up with the terrorist and repressive policy of this regime, our compatriots are expressing their protests against this so-called theocratic government at every appropriate opportunity. The demonstrations by the people in Tehran on 23 November are proof of this indisputable fact.

The (?mouthpieces) of the Islamic regime did not say anything about these angry demonstrations by the people in Tehran [words

indistinct], but reports about these antiregime demonstrations have been more or less disseminated throughout the world.

The story is that on Friday, 23 November, the citizens of Tehran took advantage of a sports event at Amjadiyeh stadium to stage demonstrations in the streets. The armed barriers that the regime set up around Amjadiyeh stadium could not prevent the people's protest. The people, by chanting such slogans as "Mortars, Tanks, and Machineguns No Longer Have Any Effect," [words indistinct], and staged demonstrations.

A witness said that on this day the atmosphere on the streets of Tehran resembled the days of the revolution. The regime, which knew that the people gathering at the stadium, people who hate the Islamic government, would use the opportunity to protest, changed the venue of the soccer match that was to have been held at Azadi stadium and announced that the match would take place in Amjadiyeh. The authorities of the Islamic government believed that they would be able to control the situation in this small stadium.

The guards, committee members, police personnel, and a large number of mobilization forces took up positions inside and outside the stadium. The people, too, [words indistinct] had prepared themselves to express their protests over the Islamic regime's policy which is destroying Iran. The Islamic regime's guards (?tried) to disperse the people, but the people remained steadfast and chanted slogans against the antipeople fascist-theocratic Islamic regime. Finally, the demonstrators, with hatred and anger, poured into the streets around Amjadiyeh. A large number began moving toward the south, toward Mokhber ol-Dowleh Square. The regime tried by every means to prevent the people's movement, and the regime's repressive personnel fired shots to disperse the people. As a result of this firing by the Islamic guards, 30 of the demonstrators were killed and scores injured, and a considerable number were detained and imprisoned by the Islamic gunslingers.

This time the Islamic regime succeeded in dispersing the protest demonstrations by Tehran's citizens with cruelty and savagery, but the demonstrations of the people of Tehran once more displayed the anger and hatred of the Iranian people towards the fascist-theocratic Islamic regime. The citizens of Tehran, who were aware of the Islamic regime's cruelty and brutality, and who knew well that the regime would respond to them with a hail of machinegun bullets, shook the streets of Tehran with resolute determination beneath their unwavering feet. Tehran's 23 November demonstrations, like those of 10 October in Tehran and similar demonstrations in Shiraz, Ahvaz, and Gilan, which presently have a local aspect, herald the beginning of general struggles against the despotic Islamic regime. These struggles are gradually taking shape throughout the country.

The free Iranian people are rising to struggle against the antipeople and reactionary regime that has squandered the gains of the Iranian revolution. Under such conditions an urgent duty lies before revolutionary forces and progressive national democratic parties and organizations. This duty, above all, requires that these forces put aside all differences of opinion and style, which are extremely inconsequential in the face of the ultimate goal of saving the country from the clutches of the present bloody government, and that they (?embark) on a unified struggle, hand in hand and within a united popular antidespotic front, against the demon of tyranny. The alliance and unity of action by genuine revolutionary forces under the present sensitive conditions is the principle, and this principle must be adopted.